



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 – 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/President Mansori

President Mansori called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

ROLL CALL:

The VAC Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT: President Mansori, Vice-President Martin-Pinto, Commissioners William Barnickel (joined 6:25PM), Douglas Bullard, Hanley Chan, Jason Chittavong, Deborah Dacumos, Courtney Ellington, Christopher McDonald, Courtney Miller, Nicholas Rusanoff, Raymond Wong

ABSENT: Commissioner Victor Olivieri (excused)

Quorum present.

PRESENTATIONS

President Mansori noted several presentations on the meeting agenda. In consideration of guest presenters' time, presentations were placed at the beginning of the meeting, and presented as follows:

- Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD)
 - Presenters: Sheila Nickolopoulos and Maria Benjamin with MOHCD.
Ms. Nickolopoulos gave an overview of the work of the MOHCD, and reviewed the lottery preference legislation for veterans within each of the four lottery preference categories. The presentation provided an example of a displaced tenant who is also a veteran and explained how the legislation will move this veteran to the top of the second category list. Presentation also included data pulled together by the MOHCD when asked by Supervisor Mar to do an analysis of the legislation. Ms. Nickolopoulos concluded by asking for questions or comments.
 - Commissioner Rusanoff asked how the VAC can work with MOHCD to develop a program to target the most vulnerable veteran population cited in the data graph. Ms. Nickolopoulos responded such a program is not within the MOHCD work program, however MOHCD is happy to share their expertise with the appropriate city agency and the VAC.
 - Commissioner Chittavong asked if an increase of affordable housing is in the future for BMR program. Ms. Nickolopoulos responded the BMR program is entirely market driven, but MOHCD continues to aggressively seek opportunities to develop more affordable units.



- Commissioner Ellington asked if widows and descendants will have an opportunity to apply. Ms. Nickolopoulos responded the legislation as currently written does not include family members. She reminded everyone the legislation goes to committee next Thursday, June 23, and there will be an opportunity to speak about the legislation during public comment.

President Mansori thanked the MOHCD, and introduced the next presentation on the agenda.

- New Ordinance on Veteran Preference for Affordable Housing
 - Presenter: Mr. Alan Wong, Legislative Assistant, Board of Supervisors. Mr. Wong spoke of veterans preference for affordable housing legislation that will grant priority to veterans in the application process for BMR housing in San Francisco. The legislation will be heard at the June 23 meeting of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee. Mr. Wong urged commissioners and veterans supporters to participate in this committee meeting and show support for the legislation.

President Mansori thanked Mr. Wong, and introduced the next presentation.

- Two Positions in Support of the Veterans Justice Court
 - Presenters: Judge Michael Begert, Allyson West, Veterans Justice Court. Judge Begert provided an overview of the Veterans Justice Court with particular focus on two components of the program – clinical expertise and peer-to-peer support. The Court is seeking to fund two positions, a case manager position and mentor/coordinator position.
 - Allyson West said a funding request for both positions was recently submitted to the San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA). HSA is considering funding for the case manager position, but determined the other position of mentor/coordinator falls outside the agency's funding guidelines.
 - President Mansori suggested Ms. West get clarification from HSA about funding prospects for the case manager position and report back to the commission. After receiving this information from HSA, President Mansori suggested the next course of action will be for the commission to seek funding from the BOS Budget and Finance Committee for one or both Justice Court positions.
 - Commissioner Chan suggested the VAC Legislative Committee explore funding source options.
 - Commissioner Bullard asked for estimate cost of the case manager position. Ms. West answered approximately \$150,000 including benefits and training.

President Mansori thanked Judge Begert and Ms. West for taking the time to attend the meeting. The commission will wait for a response on the final word regarding support from HSA of the case manager position.



President Mansori moved to the next presentation on the agenda.

- Administrative Code - County Veterans Service Officer Role and Duties Amending the Administrative Code to place the County Veterans Service Officer (“Officer”) under the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) rather than the Department of Administrative Services; give the Director of the DAS authority to nominate the Officer; update annual reporting requirements of the Officer to the Board of Supervisors and Mayor; and provide administrative support to the Veterans’ Affairs Commission.
 - President Mansori noted Bill Barnes was not in attendance at the meeting. She further noted the Administrative Code document was previously emailed to each commissioner and asked commissioners to review it for discussion at a future meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Officers’ Report:

President

- SMA Memorial Day Events were very successful.
- CVSO Replacement Update – hiring is in negotiations stage.
- Reminder – No meeting in July as commission is on recess.

Vice-President

- Agreed with President Mansori that Memorial Day events were very successful, and suggested it would be good to plan another similar event.
- Inquired about return to in-person meetings. President Mansori responded that there hasn’t been an update from the Mayor’s Office.

Staff Secretary

- HSA will provide additional tech/email support to the VAC.

Supervisor Liaison Reports

- District 1: Sup. Chan – Commissioner Bullard
 - No report.
- District 2: Sup. Stefani – Commissioner Miller
 - No report, but coordinating a time to meet.
- District 3: Sup. Peskin – Commissioner McDonald
 - No report.
- District 4: Sup. Mar – Commissioner Barnickel
 - Supervisor Mar commented Memorial Day events were very positive and collaborative, and commended the hard work of Commissioner Mansori.
- District 5: Sup. Preston – Commissioner Dacumos



- No report. Commissioner Dacumos noted redistricting has placed her outside of Supervisor Preston's district. Commissioner Chittavong said he will take over as liaison for district 5. Commissioner Dacumos thanked him and agreed.
- District 6: Sup. Haney – Commissioner Rusanoff
 - Supervisor Haney moved to State Assembly and District 6 is now represented by Supervisor Dorsey. Commissioner Rusanoff reached out to Dorsey staff.
- District 7: Sup. Melgar – Commissioner Chan
 - Met for brunch meeting. Noted Supervisor Melgar is always very supportive of veterans.
- District 8: Sup. Mandelman – Commissioner Dacumos
 - Reached out to Supervisor's office regarding SB9 and Prop. 19. Received email that funding will be difficult for SB9. Commissioner Dacumos stated she will check with the Supervisor about funding source options for the Veterans Justice Court mentor/coordinator position.
- District 9: Sup. Ronen – Commissioner Miller
 - No report.
- District 10: Sup. Walton – Commissioner Martin-Pinto
 - No report.
- District 11: Sup. Safai – Commissioner Bullard
 - No report.

After discussion, it was decided Commissioner Ellington will take over as liaison to Supervisor Walton, District 10. President Mansori noted there are two commissioners covering two districts each. Commission will review liaison assignments at a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- President Mansori called for a motion to approve the April 12, 2022 regular meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Barnickel seconded.
- President Mansori called All in Favor – Yes: 12, No: 0, Abstain: 0.
- April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes approved.

Absent: Commissioner Olivieri.

AGENDA CHANGES

No agenda changes

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Committees: Review Workflows, Determine Schedules and Assign Chairs [Discussion]
 - President Mansori confirmed chairpersons for each committee:



Commissioner Rusanoff - Events/Communications

Commissioner Chittavong – Legislative Committee

- President Mansori recommended committees hold their first meeting in July. She noted committees are a work in progress and will improve as we learn. Once committees establish meeting structure and schedule, full administrative support will be forthcoming.
- Commissioner Ellington was added to Legislative and Events/Communication committees.
- VAC Membership Requirement in Article XI [Discussion]
 - Commission followed up to discussion from April 2022 meeting about reducing Veterans Affairs Commission from 17 members to 13 members.
 - President Mansori said Supervisor Peskin’s office is working on ordinance to reduce to 13 members.
 - After discussion, President Mansori noted majority of commissioners have voiced support to reduce commission to 13 members. An update from Supervisor Peskin’s office will be shared at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Supervisors Meeting – Commission Engagement

- Commissioners encouraged to attend the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting on June 23 and support veterans housing legislation during public comment.

Veterans Justice Court – Funding of two Position

- President Mansori noted commission will wait on response from Allyson West regarding HSA support before moving to next course of action.
- Commissioner Rusanoff asked if VJC two positions can be discussed with Alan Wong and Supervisor Mar. President Mansori answered yes.

GOOD WELFARE

This is the opportunity for members of the Veterans Affairs Commission to share special thanks and congratulatory remarks for the good welfare taking place in the veterans community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- President Mansori opened the meeting to public comment.
 - Commissioners offered welcome and congratulations to new Veterans Affairs Commissioner Courtney Ellington.
 - Commissioner Rusanoff reminded commissioners of importance of participation at June 23 committee meeting in support of veterans housing legislation.



- No comments from public.

HONORS REPORT AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

In memory of American service members in all wars and conflicts who made the ultimate sacrifice. We also remember the passing of homeless veterans, veterans who died while awaiting approval of benefits, and suicides within the veteran and armed service communities.

ADJOURNMENT

President Mansori adjourned the meeting at 8:02PM.

The next regular meeting of the Veterans Affairs Commission will be held remotely at 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 09, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy
Secretary to Veterans Affairs Commission

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Veterans Affairs Commission Meetings:

General meetings of the SFVAC are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, with the exception for the month of July, when there is no scheduled SF VAC meeting, and are held in Room 416 in City Hall.

Meeting confirmation, and specific announcement of general meetings are made via public posting of the Meeting Agenda as required by law, at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings. Agendas



for SFVAC meetings (and archived meeting minutes) are available on the SFVAC Pages of the City of San Francisco website, and are also available for public view and inspection at the 5th Floor Government Information Center at the San Francisco Public Library, at 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. The documents librarian telephone number is (415) 554-4472.

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**Veterans
Crisis Line**



If you or a Veteran, you know is in immediate danger to themselves or others, please call 911 or visit your local emergency room.

The Veterans Crisis Line is also available by texting 838255 or by going to their website and chatting with a mental health professional.



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